



June 26, 2022

Saint Thomas Lutheran

23801 Kelly Road, Eastpointe, Michigan 48021 - 586-772-3370

www.stl-eastpointe.org

Rev. Mark W. Hetzner, Senior Pastor

Specific Ministry Pastor - Rev. Richard A. VanBriggle, Deacon Don Cooley

Connecting Individuals to Jesus and to One Another Educating Minds – Growing Faith – Serving People

We are here to serve our community. As you worship with us online, the Lord Jesus is at work, uniting us as friends and family. If you are curious to learn more out ministry in the community, go to www.stl-eastpointe.org, or like us on Face Book. To get your questions answered in a more personal way, contact the church office (586-772-3370) and ask for a pastor/staff member to give you a call.

Divine Service

Stories of God @ Work

INVITATION

God draws us into his presence.

Entrance Hymn

“Blessed Jesus, at Your Word”

[LSB 904, vv. 1, 3, 4]

Blessèd Jesus, at Your Word We are gathered all to hear You.
Let our hearts and souls be stirred Now to seek and love and fear You,
By Your teachings, sweet and holy, Drawn from earth to love You solely.

Gracious Savior, good and kind, Light of Light, from God proceeding,
Open now our heart and mind; Help us by Your Spirit’s pleading.
Hear the cry Your Church now raises; Hear and bless our prayers and praises.

Father, Son, and Spirit, Lord, Praise to You and adoration!
Grant that we may trust Your Word, Confident of our salvation,
While we here below must wander, Till we sing Your praises yonder.

Entering Prayers

[from Psalm 16]

L: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

L: Preserve us O God, for in you we take refuge.

C: I say to the Lord, “You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.”

L: As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones in whom God delights.

C: The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup. I bless the Lord who gives me counsel.

L: He makes known to us the path of life.

C: In his presence there is fullness of joy; at his right hand are pleasures forevermore.

L: Lord of all power and might, author and giver of all good things, graft into our hearts the love of Your name and nourish us with all goodness that we may love and serve our neighbor; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Earth and all stars! Loud rushing planets!
Sing to the Lord a new song! Oh, victory!
Loud shouting army! Sing to the Lord a new song! Refrain

Refrain: He has done marvelous things. I too will praise Him with a new song!

Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blowing snowstorm!
Sing to the Lord a new song! Flowers and trees!
Loud rustling dry leaves! Sing to the Lord a new song! **Refrain**

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INSTRUCTION

God feeds our heart, soul, and intellect.

The Holy Gospel

Luke 9:51-62

L: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, chapter 9.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

When the days drew near for [Jesus] to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, “Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?” But he turned and rebuked them. And they went on to another village.

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” And Jesus said to him, “Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” Yet another said, “I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Announcements

Children’s Sermon and Attendance Registration

Please let us know you are watching by sending us a comment or an emoji.



We would like to know you attended service today!

To record your attendance, you can scan this QR code with your phone’s camera, it will take you to the web page/form for attendance. Fill out the form and hit the submit button.

Hymn of the Day

“All for Christ I Have Forsaken”

[LSB 753]
(tune 691)

All for Christ I have forsaken And have taken up my cross;
Worldly joy, its fame and fortune, Now I count as worthless dross.

Who is sweeter than Christ Jesus? No good thing in Him I lack!
Hand to plow, at peace I follow Where He leads me . . . why look back?

Gone the past, unknown the future Grace supplies my daily breath;
Strong in Christ through death’s dark valley, Firm and faithful unto death.

When God takes me home to heaven, Should this be the day I die,
God will keep my spouse and children As the apple of His eye.

Though the road ahead be thorny, Though dark clouds all light obscure,
Though my cross-shaped path grows steeper, With the Lord, I am secure.

Text: © 1999 Stephen P. Starke, admin.

Sermon

“Our Calling”

Galatians 5:1, 13-15

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

Voluntary

“Have Thine Own Way, Lord”

A. Pollard/G. Stebbins

[Personal notes and reflections]

INTROSPECTION

God convicts us to action.

KINGDOM THOUGHTS

“For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.” **(Galatians 5:13)**

How will you demonstrate this in your life this week?



EASY WAYS TO SUPPORT THE STL MISSION There is a variety of ways to give your support to the mission of STL. For many the easiest is to simply mail in a check or drop your offering off at the church. If you prefer electronic giving, STL offers multiple options:

- Text “GIVE” to 1-586-800-2223
- Visit: <https://www.stl-eastpointe.org/2015/07/13/mission-support/>
- Go to <https://www.elexiogiving.com/app/giving/stthoms>
- Through your Pay Pal account
- Scan this Quick Response (QR) code

These will connect you to our on-line giving form, where you can have your mission support offering automatically taken from your checking account or use your credit or debit card (STL is charged extra fees for debit and credit card transactions). **You can even set up recurring giving with many of these options!** IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, OR DESIRE ASSISTANCE, PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE (586-772-3370).

A Reading from Galatians

L: In Paul’s letter to the churches in Galatia he reaffirms the core message of the Gospel that faith in the Messiah is the basis of membership in God’s new community. In today’s reading he urges us to stand firm in the Gospel’s freedom and to not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

(Galatians 5:1, 13-25) For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. ...

For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

L: This is the word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Prayer of the Church

L: Let us pray for the whole church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs:

(after each petition)

L: Lord in your mercy:

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen

Your hand, O Lord, in days of old Was strong to heal and save;
It triumphed over ills and death, O'er darkness and the grave.
To You they came, the blind, the mute, The palsied and the lame,
The lepers in their misery, The sick with fevered frame.

O be our great deliv'rer still, The Lord of life and death;
Restore and quicken, soothe and bless, With Your life-giving breath.
To hands that work and eyes that see Give wisdom's healing pow'r
That whole and sick and weak and strong May praise You evermore.

Confession and Absolution

L: Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God of hosts, who is here to heal and save us.

C: **Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

L: From the rising of the sun to the setting of the same, we cry aloud with joyful voice and say:

C: **Glory be to you, O God, the Savior of all, forever and ever. Amen.**

(time for personal reflection)

L: Lord Jesus Christ, hear us as we pray:

C: **We confess that we have run away from you, and have done wrong. We have lived for ourselves. We have refused to bear the troubles of others and have turned from our neighbors. We have ignored the pain of the world and passed by the hungry, the poor, and the oppressed. Lord Jesus, in your mercy, forgive our sins and free us from selfishness, that we may choose your will and obey your commandments; in Your name we pray. Amen.**

P: Christ Jesus did, indeed, die for your offences, and was raised for your justification. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

We Confess our Faith

"The Nicene Creed"

P: Let us then join in confessing our faith in the God who forgives us and gives us eternal life:

C: **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father by whom all things were made, who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen**

INVOLVEMENT

God makes his absolution shown in the world.

The Sanctus

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

[LSB 208]

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Service of the Sacrament

L: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for you have had mercy on us and given your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

C: We give thanks for the redemption you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

L: Grant us your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of his cross,

C: And receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in his body and blood.

L: Hear us as we pray in his name and as he has taught us:

C: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Institution

Pre-Communion Canticle

“Lord Jesus Christ”

[LSB 623, vv. 1-2]
(tune: LSB 810)

Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray That we may feast on You today;
Beneath these forms of bread and wine Enrich us with Your grace divine.
Give us, who share this wondrous food, Your body broken and Your blood,
The grateful peace of sins forgiv'n, The certain joys of heirs of heav'n.

The Distribution of the Sacrament

Distribution Hymn

“O Christ, Who Called the Twelve”

[LSB 856]

O Christ, who called the Twelve To rise and follow You,
Forsaking old, familiar ways For ventures bold and new:
Grant us to hear Your call To risk security
And, bound in heart and will to You, Find perfect liberty.

O Christ, who taught the Twelve The truth for ages sealed,
Whose words and works awakened faith, The ways of God revealed:
Instruct us now, we pray, By Your empow'ring Word.
True teacher, be for all who seek Their light, their life, their Lord.

O Christ, who led the Twelve Among the desolate
And broke as bread of life for all Your love compassionate:
Lead us along the ways Where hope has nearly died
And help us climb the lonely hills Where love is crucified.

O Christ, who sent the Twelve On roads they'd never trod
To serve, to suffer, teach, proclaim The nearer reign of God:
Send us on ways where faith Transcends timidity,
Where love informs and hope sustains Both life and ministry.

O Christ, the apostles' Lord, The martyrs' strength and song,
The crucified and risen King To whom the saints belong:
Though generations pass, Our tribute still we bring,
Our hymns a sacrifice of praise, Our lives an offering.

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Pre-Communion Canticle

"Lord Jesus Christ"

[LSB 623, vv. 1-2]
(tune: LSB 810)

Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray That we may feast on You today;
Beneath these forms of bread and wine Enrich us with Your grace divine.
Give us, who share this wondrous food, Your body broken and Your blood,
The grateful peace of sins forgiv'n, The certain joys of heirs of heav'n.

Dismissal

Sending Prayer and Benediction

Sending Hymn

"Forth in Thy Name, O Lord, I Go"

[LSB 854, vv. 1, 2, 4, 5]
(tune 405)

Forth in Thy name, O Lord, I go, My daily labor to pursue,
Thee, only Thee, resolved to know In all I think or speak or do.

The task Thy wisdom has assigned, O let me cheerfully fulfill;
In all my works Thy presence find, And prove Thy good and perfect will.

Give me to bear Thine easy yoke, And ev'ry moment watch and pray,
And still to things eternal look, And hasten to Thy glorious day.

For Thee delightfully employ Whate'er Thy bounteous grace has giv'n,
And run my course with even joy, And closely walk with Thee to heav'n.

Prayer as you go home

Dear Lord Jesus, I thank and praise you that you have again refreshed me with the gift of your holy body and blood in this comforting sacrament. Bless my participation that I may depart from your presence with peace and joy in the knowledge that I am reconciled to God. I ask this in your name. Amen.

*You are living in
the (your)
Mission Field*

*“The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few.
Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send YOU out into his harvest.” (Matthew 9:37-38)*

NEXT SUNDAY:

*The 4th Sunday after Pentecost
July 3, 2022*

Scripture Readings: Luke 10:1-11, 16-20 / Galatians 6:14-18

Summer Office Hours: STL will have reduced office hours through August 14.
The Church Office will be open 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 P.M., Monday through Thursday.
The office will be **closed Fridays**, through August 15.

**April through June Mission Envelopes
ABIGAYLE MINISTRIES**

Abigayle Ministries is a Christian interdenominational non-profit organization in Southeast Michigan. The ministry assists adult pregnant women and their children by introducing them to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and equipping them to be self-sufficient through its residential housing program.

Their vision is to provide a two-year residential program for the single mother with child, whereby she can obtain mentoring and educational support for healthy child development and parent-child relationships while becoming self-supporting. We aspire to be a catalyst in promoting relationships based upon the love of Christ.

100% of your Mission Envelope donations (either using the envelop provided in your box or through your designation electronically or with a different envelope) to STL during the months of April, May, and June will be given to Abigayle Ministries. For more information on the ministry, go to www.abigayleministries.org or call 586-323-1411.

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Watch services on Facebook or at www.stl-eastpointe.org – videotaping in progress during service

Lutheran Benefits Group in Sterling Heights is seeking an account service representative to work closely with church and school clients to help them with their health care needs. Ultimately, the duties of an ASR are to give excellent customer support and to help in the growth of the agency. If interested, please contact Keith Mueller at 586.739.5700 or keith@luthben.com.

Lutheran Special Education Ministries is looking for a full-time resource room teacher position at Lutheran High School North in Macomb, MI. Applicants must hold a current Michigan Teaching License and have a special education certification/endorsement. Interested applicants looking for more information or wishing to submit a resume are asked to contact Richard Schumacher at (734) 748-5253 or email him at rschumacher@luthsped.org.

PASTORAL TRANSITION TASK FORCE **Organized June 5, 2022**

The purpose of the Transition Task Force is to a) perform the first steps in preparing for the exciting future God has planned for STL, and b) help the congregation work through the many emotions of change.

Task Force Members:

Dana Adam	Tony Berkseth (staff)	Will Coderre
Kelly Crivella (BOD)	Karen/Mike Dolan (elder)	Heather Miller
Lisa Quinn	Fred Bauss / Tim Kruse (elder advisors)	Pastor Hetzner

THE THREE TASKS

- Task #1 – Work with STL in developing a congregational profile (to be given to the Call Committee at the end of summer) that describes who STL currently is, what it seeks to be in the future, and what we are looking for in a pastor that will help us get there.
- Task #2 – Develop and distribute a system of STL History Telling to help us recall God’s faithfulness throughout all of our +130-year history.
- Task #3 – Offer spiritual encouragement to all throughout the transition process.

Our Confession of Faith

As members of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LC-MS), we subscribe to the three ecumenical creeds (Apostles, Nicene and Athanasian) and the Christian faith as confessed in the Book of Concord. This includes believing that:

- Jesus Christ is both true God and true man who died for our sins and rose again to save us.
- His body/blood are truly present in communion under the form of bread/wine (page 326).
- Communion is, among other things, an expression of doctrinal unity.
- Infant baptism is a Means of Grace through which God delivers one from sin and gives eternal salvation to all who believe (page 325 in Lutheran Service Book).

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Your personal prayer guide for the week of:

June 26, 2022

Our Primary Prayer focus for this week is upon Christ's people on earth:

- For the Holy Spirit to be at work enriching faith through our worship Gatherings in those in our sanctuary as well as those joining us online.
- Keeping us faithful to him through the summer months.
- For children to be raised in the nurture and encouragement of the Gospel.
- For new individuals to become members of the STL Prayer Chain.

And we remember all children who hear the gospel in church and from their parents, and those in hospice care.



To connect to the **STL PRAYER CHAIN**, contact Karen Dolan (mdolan421@gmail.com), text "Prayer" to 1-586-800-2223, or scan this QR code, with your phone's camera, to be taken to the prayer request form.

† In Our Thoughts and Prayers †

† **For Loved Ones Called Home:** For the family of Rev. Ray Pollatz, former pastor, called home last week. For the family of Teresa Rizzo, neighbor of Ben Stubenrauch, who was called home this week.

† **God's Healing Hand on:** Diane Ustick, Marge Bittner, Heather Miller, Joanne Awe, Paul Kress, Ed Redmond, Betty Williams, Beverly Schnepfer, John Cherry, Lori Kucharek, Chris Huber, Janet Semenjok, Dolly Houth, Eric Semenjok (brother of Russ) Lisa Riviera (former member), Linda Taggart (former member), Tina Croke (sister of Debbie Churchill), Mike Parkin (son-in-law of Caroline Henze).

† **Continued prayers for Healing & Strength for:** John Lemke (friend of Monica Hetzner), Beth White, Robert Laroche and Jan Adams (family of Karen Hubbard), Tiffany Crow (granddaughter of Marilyn Redmond), Kathy Johnson (friend of Vicki Leberg), Claire Armstrong (granddaughter of Clyde & Carolyn Armstrong), Karl Hallberg (son-in-law of Davis Cardamone), Payton Gifford (great-granddaughter of Jane Gurnack), Kennedy Pank (great-granddaughter of Marilyn Redmond).

Weekly Worship with Communion - Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

Monday at 7:30 p.m.

Drive Thru Communion - Third Sunday of the month at 11:30 a.m.

"The Flock" for children and Crossfraining JC Style for youth

Staying connected through summer emails

Faith Hope Love Gatherings - Sunday and throughout the week